

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-8 : (Canceled)

Claim 9 : (New) A directional coupler, comprising: two hollow waveguide sections connected to each other by a plurality of coupling openings formed in a wall extending between the hollow waveguide sections, two adjacent coupling openings of said plurality having a distance of $(2n + 1) \lambda_g/4$ from each other, wherein λ_g is a wavelength of a nominal center frequency of an operating frequency range of the directional coupler, and wherein n is an integer.

Claim 10 : (New) The directional coupler according to claim 9, in that n equals 1.

Claim 11 : (New) The directional coupler according to claim 9, in that the hollow waveguide sections have rectangular cross-sections, and in that the wall forms a narrow side-wall of the hollow waveguide sections.

Claim 12 : (New) The directional coupler according to claim 9, in that the hollow waveguide sections have rectangular cross-sections, and in that the wall forms a broad side-wall of the hollow waveguide sections.

Claim 13 : (New) The directional coupler according to claim 9, in that at least one of the coupling openings has a dimension in a longitudinal direction of the hollow waveguide sections of $\lambda_g/8$.

Claim 14 : (New) The directional coupler according to claim 13, wherein the dimension is on the order of $\lambda_g/4$.

Claim 15 : (New) The directional coupler according to claim 9, in that each coupling opening has a dimension in a longitudinal direction of the hollow waveguide sections of at least $\lambda_g/8$.

Claim 16 : (New) The directional coupler according to claim 9, in that each coupling opening has a length that decreases from a center towards an end of the directional coupler.

Claim 17 : (New) The directional coupler according to claim 9, in that the two adjacent coupling openings are separated from each other by a wall portion having a length of more than $\lambda_g/4$.

Claim 18 : (New) The directional coupler according to claim 17, wherein the length is on the order of $\lambda_g/2$.